

● **PRINTER RUSH** ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE)

ITW

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Application: ~~29733563~~ Examiner: JACKSON GAU: 3731

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[RUSH] MESSAGE: ORIGINAL CLAIM 3 IS CANCELED
ON THE INDEX, BUT ITS STILL LISTED
ON THE CLAIM SET.

Thank you

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: _____

INITIALS: _____

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.
REV 10/04

2. (currently amended) A method for establishing an end-to-side anastomosis between a severed end of a first hollow organ and a side-wall of a second hollow organ, the method comprising:

(a) introducing a specifically configured anastomosis coupling apparatus, having an input end and output end, said coupling apparatus comprising two segments joined together on one side with [having] a hinge mechanism[,] and having a gap on another side for allowing said two segments to be spread apart, said apparatus comprised to engage said severed end of a first hollow organ with said input end and engage said side-wall of a second hollow organ with said output end;

(b) affixing said output end to said a severed end section of the side-wall of said second hollow organ;

(c) positioning said input end of said anastomosis coupling apparatus in close proximity with the site for anastomosis of the first hollow organ;

(d) affixing said input end to said first hollow organ site.

3. (currently amended) An anastomosis coupling apparatus ~~having an input end, an output end,~~ comprising two pieces joined on one side by a hinge mechanism and having a opening slot on another side, said apparatus having an input end and an output end, said apparatus comprised to substantially engage said severed end of a first hollow organ with

said input end and substantially engage a side-wall of a second hollow organ with said output end, said coupling apparatus positioning a tissue interface of said first hollow organ in close proximity with a tissue interface of said side-wall.

4. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said specifically configured anastomosis coupling apparatus is "T" shaped.

5. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said specifically configured anastomosis coupling apparatus is "V" shaped.

6. (currently amended) An anastomosis coupling apparatus having an input end, an output end, and comprising two pieces joined on one side by a hinge mechanism and having a gap on another side, said apparatus comprised to substantially engage said severed end of a first hollow organ with said input end and substantially engage a side-wall of a second hollow organ with said output end, said coupling apparatus positioning a tissue interface of said first hollow organ in close proximity with a tissue interface of said side-wall,~~The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said specifically configured anastomosis coupling apparatus is "U" shaped.~~

7. (currently amended) An anastomosis coupling apparatus having an input end, an output end, and comprising two pieces joined on one side by a hinge mechanism and having a slot on another side, said apparatus comprised to substantially engage said severed end of a first hollow organ with said input end and substantially engage a side-wall of a second hollow organ with said output end, said coupling apparatus positioning a tissue interface of said first

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Klicpera on November 1, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 3-5, 14, 30, and 35-37 have been cancelled. This amendment clearly set forth the claims intended to be cancelled by the applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4697. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 am to 6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Antoine Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4693. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gary Jackson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3731



gj
November 3, 2004